Claims

1-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) A method for identifying an agent that modulates TNF-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL)-induced apoptosis, comprising:

~~a) assaying kinase activity of JNK inhibitory kinase (JIK) in the presence of a test agent;~~

~~b) identifying an agent that modulates the kinase activity of JIK;~~

~~c) contacting a first cell system wherein JIK is endogenously expressed with said the agent that modulates the kinase activity of JIK and contacting a second cell system wherein JIK is endogenously expressed with the agent that modulates the kinase activity of JIK, wherein the first cell system and the second cell system are the same;~~

~~d) contacting the first cell system with TRAIL; and~~

~~e) assaying for apoptosis activity in the first cell system and the second cell system; thereby identifying an agent that modulates TRAIL-induced apoptosis.~~

a) screening a test agent in a bioassay measuring JIK kinase activity and in a bioassay measuring TRAIL-induced apoptosis using an RNA-i based loss of function screening method; and

b) identifying an agent that modulates TRAIL-induced apoptosis in HeLa cells.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the agent that modulates TRAIL-induced apoptosis enhances TRAIL-induced apoptosis activity.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the agent that modulates TRAIL-induced apoptosis inhibits TRAIL-induced apoptosis activity.

30-32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein [[step e)]] said bioassay measuring TRAIL-induced apoptosis in step a) comprises assaying for caspase activity.

34. (new) The method of claim 27, further comprising c) identifying the JIK gene vis-à-vis the RNAi screening method with a JIK-specific RNAi test agent in HeLa cells.